

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

29 November 2001 (29.11.01)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

FCP-1016

IMPORTANT NOTICE

International application No.

PCT/JP01/04290

International filing date (day/month/year)

22 May 2001 (22.05.01)

Priority date (day/month/year)

22 May 2000 (22.05.00)

Applicant

RICOH COMPANY, LTD. et al

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has **communicated**, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this notice:

US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:

EP,JP

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 29 November 2001 (29.11.01) under No. WO 01/90481

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a **demand for international preliminary examination** must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination (at present, all PCT Contracting States are bound by Chapter II).

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the **national phase**, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and the PCT Applicant's Guide, Volume II.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/04290

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.C1⁷ D21H27/00, D21H15/10, B41N1/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.C1⁷ D21H27/00, D21H15/10, B41N1/24

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2001
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2001 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2001Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPI/L

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 52-42908 A (Hamano Kougyou K.K.), 04 April, 1977 (04.04.77), table 2 (contrast example, comparison examples 1, 2), (Family: none)	1
A	GB 1522948 A (Guy Billy, Marcel Vanbever), 31 August, 1978 (31.08.78), Full text & JP 53-10712 A & FR 2352103 A	2-28
X	JP 3-167385 A (Tomogawa Paper Co., Ltd.), 19 July, 1991 (19.07.91), Full text; Figs. 1 to 3 (Family: none)	1,2,4
A		3,5-38
X	JP 3-167385 A (Tomogawa Paper Co., Ltd.), 19 July, 1991 (19.07.91), Full text; Figs. 1 to 3 (Family: none)	1-3,6,14,17
A		4,5,7-13,15, 16,18-33
A	JP 63-296938 A (Tokyo Ramineeto K.K.), 05 December, 1988 (05.12.88), page 2, upper right column, lines 5 to 18 (Family: none)	1-37

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
01 August, 2001 (01.08.01)Date of mailing of the international search report
14 August, 2001 (14.08.01)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/04290

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 5-246170 A (Dainippon Printing Co., Ltd.), 24 September, 1993 (24.09.93), Full text (Family: none)	39-43